



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 1999

Natural soda ash production in December was 884,000 metric tons, 2% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The preliminary total U.S. soda ash production for 1999 was 10.2 million tons. Ending inventories were 248,000 tons, 8% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December was 1.35 million tons. The preliminary total Wyoming trona production for 1999 was 15.9 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in November was 655,000 tons, 21% higher than the November 1998 level of 540,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in November 1999 were 285,000 tons and 7,690 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through November 1999, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1998, were as follows: production 1% higher, imports 7% higher, exports 4% lower, ending stocks 26% lower, and apparent consumption 5% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1998:			
November	858	311	1,390
December	840	273	1,430
Year total	10,100	XX	16,500
1999:			
January	835	296	1,490
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,370 r/
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
October	888	264	1,290
November	899	230	1,290
December	884	248	1,350
Total	10,200	XX	15,900

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1999 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN NOVEMBER 1999 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Korea, Republic of	49,800	\$6,410	\$129
Belgium	36,100	4,060	112
Mexico	28,400	3,220	113
Indonesia	26,500	3,160	119
Canada	23,100	1,820	79
Taiwan	18,500	2,360	128
Japan	16,700	2,100	126
Thailand	15,700	1,960	124
South Africa	14,900	1,880	126
Australia	11,500	1,430	124
Other	44,200	5,500	124
Total	285,000	33,900	119

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ December 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Total	% of total
Argentina	2,680	13,800	--	--	14,000	--	22,000	--	--	14,800	10,500	77,900	2
Australia	6,000	--	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	6,460	--	10,300	11,500	45,200	1
Belgium	--	--	18,100	14,800	12,000	18	17,500	6	9,000	5,110	36,100	113,000	3
Bolivia	--	150	--	450	--	700	--	27	--	300	--	1,630	(3/)
Brazil	24,000	21,900	--	12,000	27,800	--	--	46,900	--	73,400	10,200	216,000	7
Canada	21,200	24,800	24,500	19,100	18,200	20,500	16,500	21,700	22,100	22,600	23,100	234,000	7
Chile	--	21,100	--	24,500	--	26,400	--	25,500	--	29,100	--	127,000	4
China	4,500	--	4,500	--	4,700	5,000	--	12,300	--	4,200	--	35,200	1
Colombia	11,000	20,400	--	--	--	--	--	7,480	13,100	--	--	52,000	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	9,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,010	--	5,010	(3/)
France	--	30,000	15,100	15,400	--	--	--	23,500	--	--	--	84,000	3
Germany	--	--	185	--	114	--	--	--	116	--	232	647	(3/)
Guatemala	65	3,040	82	2,040	82	73	--	2,010	123	5,920	--	13,400	(3/)
Indonesia	16,000	--	20,000	20,500	19,000	16,500	23,000	45,000	--	66,100	26,500	253,000	8
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,100	--	--	--	5,100	(3/)
Jamaica	--	16	16	2,030	--	--	--	2,050	--	729	--	4,840	(3/)
Japan	27,500	36,100	10,500	37,900	7,040	41,100	35,500	9,500	35,200	27,700	16,700	285,000	9
Korea, Republic of	32,000	3,280	26,400	170	20,700	139	19,500	19,800	55,500	53	49,800	227,000	7
Malaysia	--	18,100	--	--	17,500	9,500	5,000	9,500	--	23,400	--	83,000	3
Mexico	38,100	37,800	44,700	31,300	53,900	20,800	50,600	62,100	48,800	51,900	28,400	469,000	15
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,000	--	--	6,710	--	13,700	(3/)
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	3,960	--	--	3,890	--	--	7,850	(3/)
Norway	--	--	--	23	--	--	29	--	--	--	17	69	(3/)
Peru	--	3,100	--	3,450	--	3,620	--	2,120	--	3,600	--	15,900	(3/)
Philippines	--	11,000	--	10,000	8,000	--	8,500	10,000	--	8,750	8,000	64,300	2
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,060	5,060	(3/)
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	389	--	389	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	14,000	--	15,000	--	15,000	--	--	18,000	--	77,000	2
Singapore	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	4,000	--	--	4,000	--	11,500	(3/)
South Africa	14,900	--	17,000	--	--	--	18,900	--	17,900	--	14,900	83,500	3
Spain	--	16,200	11,200	33,100	--	--	11,900	--	5,000	12,800	10,000	100,000	3
Suriname	19	58	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	96	(3/)
Taiwan	15,000	23,100	4,300	22,600	--	23,000	5,500	20,000	21,900	--	18,500	154,000	5
Thailand	13,400	14,000	23,400	21,500	17,300	15,300	15,200	18,700	--	24,300	15,700	179,000	6
Tonga	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	36	--	--	36	(3/)
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,900	--	--	2,830	--	--	--	2,800	--	--	8,530	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	6,000	--	18,000	1
United Kingdom	147	--	20	20	7,020	--	20	--	20	--	183	7,430	(3/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	794	--	--	--	--	--	--	794	(3/)
Venezuela	18,500	--	--	--	23,100	15,000	--	45,700	--	25,500	--	128,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	5,000	--	--	--	9,000	(3/)
Total	260,000	301,000	248,000	276,000	275,000	206,000	282,000	401,000	236,000	455,000	285,000	3,220,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ December 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1998:		
November	6,870	\$906
December	6,550	827
Total (January-November)	76,400	9,980
Year total	82,900	10,800
1999: 3/		
January	3,910	512
February	6,620	762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
September	9,120	1,080
October	8,840	1,080
November	7,690	959
Total	81,700	9,840

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ December 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1998:						
November	858,000	6,870	336,000	--	10,400	540,000
December	840,000	6,550	307,000	--	37,900	578,000
Total (January-November)	9,310,000	76,400	3,350,000	52,400	--	5,980,000
Year total	10,100,000	82,900	3,660,000	14,500	--	6,550,000
1999:						
January	835,000	3,910	260,000	22,900	--	556,000
February	749,000	6,620	301,000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8,810	248,000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7,990	276,000	--	24,500	590,000
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	206,000	--	67,800	729,000
July	911,000	7,750	282,000	11,700	--	625,000
August	803,000	6,410	401,000	--	22,700	432,000
September	824,000	9,120	236,000	--	38,400	636,000
October	888,000	8,840	455,000	10,300	--	432,000
November	899,000	7,690	285,000	--	34,000	655,000
December	884,000	NA	NA	17,900	--	NA
Total (January-November)	9,360,000	81,700	3,220,000	--	43,200	6,270,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.